

In the early-modern manuscripts, imprecise punctuation makes it unclear whether the text can be translated to read “most powerful king of African Tripoli” or, “most powerful king of Sicily, Tripoli and Africa”⁸². Nevertheless, readings in all the manuscripts afford Roger a title which refers to *Africa*. This observation is significant not least considering its implications concerning how the boundaries of Roger II’s kingship were understood by both his central administration and foreign contemporaries.

For the purposes of this argument, it will suffice to say that the development of the Norman administration from at least the 1110s⁸³, saw a professional and salaried bureaucracy set about confirming and renewing a variety of legal rights and privileges in documentary form. Between October 1144 and June 1145, the royal *dīwān* confirmed and revised at least 122 conquest-era grants of land⁸⁴. From the 1140s onwards, it also compiled record books of Sicily’s Arabic boundary descriptions, lists of men, mainland grants, services owed in Capua, Apulia and the Abruzzi, and assembled an inventory of the possessions of the Cappella Palatina and the Ifrīqiyan church⁸⁵. Legal questions concerning rights and privileges even extended to the king himself: royal administrators made numerous attempts to define aspects of Roger II’s kingship in writing. For example, the oaths Roger swore at his coronation were preserved in his coronation ordo⁸⁶, and his legal reforms were codified in a legal document⁸⁷. As part of

82) For example, see V¹ fol. 24v, and N fol. 29v.

83) Vera von Falkenhausen, Testo e contesto: un “katonoma” inedito della contessa Adelasia per il monastero di Bagnara (settembre 1111), in: *Ingenita curiositas – Studi sull’Italia medievale per Giovanni Vitolo 3*, a cura di Bruno Figliuolo / Rosalba Di Meglio / Antonella Ambrosio (2018) p. 1273–1290.

84) Jeremy Johns, *Arabic Administration in Norman Sicily. The Royal Dīwān* (Cambridge Studies in Islamic Civilization, 2002) p. 115–143.

85) For editions of these documents see, *Catalogus Baronum*, a cura di Evelyn Jamison (Fonti 101,1, 1972); *Inventarium thesauri sacrae Africanae ecclesiae, et inventarium thesauri ecclesiae Sancti Nicolai*, in: [Aloisio Garofalo], *Tabularium regiae ac imperialis capellae collegiatae Divi Petri in regio Panormitano palatio* (1835) p. 34–36.

86) Reinhard Elze, *The Ordo for the Coronation of King Roger II of Sicily: An Example of Dating from Internal Evidence*, in: *Coronations: Medieval and Early Modern Monarchic Ritual*, ed. by János M. Bak (1990) p. 165–178.

87) Kenneth Pennington, *The Birth of the Ius commune: King Roger II’s Legislation*, *Rivista Internazionale di diritto commune* 17 (2006) p. 23–60; Kenneth Pennington, *The Constitutiones of King Roger II of Sicily in Vat. lat. 8782*, *Rivista Internazionale di diritto commune* 21 (2001) p. 35–54. The dating of the *Constitutiones* has been disputed in: Ennio Cortese, *Il diritto romano in Sicilia prima e*